
Parishes, Church Agencies, Organisations, Education Institutions and Religious Orders

‘Fan the Flame’

Sunday 23 May is the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is about mission, and the goal of mission is that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.” Pentecost reminds us that Christ’s Church is about spreading the knowledge of God to all the nations, beginning here in our own “Jerusalem”.

We are invited at this time to refresh our commitment to the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, keeping in mind that “the love of God calls all Catholics to renew our commitment to share God’s mission in our time and place, reaching out to all people.” (*Instrumentum Laboris* 23.i)

Pentecost 2021 marks the third anniversary of the beginning of this journey of faith for the people of Australia.

Due to COVID-19, the first Plenary Council assembly has been moved to October 2021, and will now be conducted in a multi-modal format across Australia, combining online and face-to-face aspects, with the second assembly being held July 2022 in Sydney.

‘Listen to What the Spirit is Saying’

is the theme of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia.

‘Continuing the journey of Discernment toward the Plenary Council’

initiated the process of discerning what will be the main areas discussed at the Council assembly. The working paper (*Instrumentum Laboris*) called:

‘Continuing the Journey’

evolved from the consultation phase of the process and will be a significant part of further discernment during the assembly of members during October 2021.

“Fan the Flame” is a prayer and reflection resource package that could be used in a number of settings in parishes, schools, universities, hospitals and aged care facilities to name a few.

The material is designed in such a way that it can be adjusted to suit your environment. There are a few suggestions in the outline of the material below as to how this could be done. Let us pray as we walk together the journey of the Plenary Council toward the October 2021 Assembly and beyond. www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/

'Fan the Flame' Prayer and Reflection Resources

- **Candle ritual** for Pentecost Sunday or during the week to mark, with your parish or organisation, the beginning of a period of prayer as we approach the first assembly of the Plenary Council.
- **A print ready candle decal** if you wish to refresh you Plenary Council candle.
- **A power point slide and MP4** for each Sunday from Pentecost to the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time with a quote from the Sunday Gospel which may be used at the beginning of each Sunday Mass or a prayer reflection.
- A **bulletin bit** for each Sunday with a short reflection based on the Sunday Gospel.
- **Reflection sheets** based on the working document (*Instrumentum Laboris*) and the Gospels of the Sunday from Pentecost to the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time when the Plenary Council gathering begins across Australia.
These reflection sheets could be:
 - placed on your websites for personal prayer and reflection by the members of your parish or organisation.
 - used as reflection material at the beginning of meetings.
 - left in the reception area of your church or organisation.
- You may wish to organise a **holy hour** in your parish church, chapel or prayer space each week with a copy of the reflection sheets available for reflection and prayer by individuals or groups.
- A series of **universal prayer petitions** of which one or two could be used for Sunday Masses, weekday Masses, school Masses, prayer reflections or staff meetings. You may wish to have these intercessions translated into the languages that are spoken in your community.
- **A selection of music** that could be used for Sunday Masses, weekday Masses or prayer reflections in your organisation.
- Three prayer **reflection prayer experiences** for adults or students based on Plenary Council material that could be used by individuals or small groups.
- Reflection experiences for school students.

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